

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Minister: **John Zondag**
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Organist: **Margaret McNutt-Reichelt**
Clerk of Session: **Raymond Reichelt**

We acknowledge that we are in Treaty 1 territory, and that the land is the traditional lands of the Anishinabe and Dakota Nations, and the homeland of the Métis Nation

ANNOUNCEMENTS SHEET

THE 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT 1 March 2020

We extend a warm welcome to our guests! We invite you to sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary.

Everyone is invited to remain for a time of fellowship and refreshments in the Church Hall (downstairs) following the service. We thank **Shauna-Lei Leslie** for hosting today.

We thank **Raymond Reichelt** for leading today's service. John Zondag is leading the service at Knox Church, Neepawa, today, where he is serving as interim moderator.

The Greeters this month are **Val Pogue** and **Brian Yeo**.

Today's scripture readings will be read by **Lalaine Buan**.

Scripture Readings - The readings for today's service are
- Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7 - The temptation of Adam and Eve
- Psalm 32 - "Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven"
- Romans 5.12-19 - Adam vs. Jesus
- Matthew 4.1-11 - The temptation of Jesus

Next Sunday's readings will be

- Genesis 12.1-4a - God's promise to Abraham
- Psalm 121 - "I lift up my eyes to the mountains"
- Romans 4.1-5, 13-17 - Abraham was justified through faith
- John 3.1-17 - Jesus speaks with Nicodemus

This Week in First Church:

- Today, following the service - Choir practice
- Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. - Bible study, at Lalaine's home
- Wednesday, 1:30 p.m. - WMS will meet
- Wednesday, 3:30 p.m. - Worship Committee meeting
- Thursday, 1:30 p.m. - Prayer Time, at Pat Mullins' apartment

Coming Up:

- Sunday, 8 March - Daylight Saving Time begins
- Sunday, 8 March - Deadline for submissions for the March Newsletter
- Sunday, 29 March - Communion Sunday

The Christian Year - Today is the first Sunday in **Lent**, which is the fourth of the six seasons of the Christian year. Lent is a season of preparation for Easter. Like Advent, it is a penitential season in advance of a major festival. It is a time for us to take stock of our lives, and to get our lives back on track by renewing our commitment to God and to living in his ways. All of us easily get into bad habits, and Lent is a time to work at recognizing and breaking those habits, and establishing good ones instead.

The season of Lent originated in the early centuries of church history as a time when new converts, mainly adults, were given their final instruction in the Christian faith, in preparation for their baptism on Easter Sunday. By the Middle Ages, however, it had evolved into a solemn season of penitence and fasting for all Christians, inspired by Jesus' 40 days of fasting and being tempted in the wilderness (Matthew 4.1-11 and parallels). The length of Lent was therefore set at **40 days** (not including *Sundays*, however, since Sunday, the weekly celebration of Jesus' resurrection, could not be a day of fasting). Lent therefore always begins on a Wednesday, 6½ weeks before Easter Sunday — **Ash Wednesday**. Since the date of Easter changes from year to year, the date of Ash Wednesday also changes. The final week of Lent is called **Holy Week**, and during that week we commemorate the events leading up to and including Jesus' death on the cross.

The symbolic color for Lent, as for Advent, is **purple**, signifying preparation and penitence. The color for Holy Week is **red**, symbolizing Jesus' blood, shed on the cross.

Shaking Hands - Some people have expressed reservations about our usual practice of shaking hands with the Greeters, the minister, and others on Sunday mornings, in view of the current Corona virus outbreak, since hand-to-hand contact is one way in which the virus can be transmitted from one person to another. So, if you feel uncomfortable shaking hands with someone else, feel free not to do so. And if someone doesn't wish to shake hands with you, please don't be offended.

Newsletter - If you have a submission for the March issue of the congregational newsletter, please give or e-mail it to Lisa Sneesby by next Sunday (8 March) (bneesby@mymts.net). We aim to have the newsletter ready for distribution the following Sunday, two weeks in advance of our next Communion Sunday (29 March).

Concert Series - St. Mary's Anglican Church is holding its annual series of **noon-hour concerts** followed by lunch on four Wednesdays during Lent, beginning this week. This week's concert will feature performers from Good Shepherd Roman Catholic Church. Next week's concert (11 March) will feature our own First Presbyterian Church choir. The cost for the lunch is \$8.

Devotional Booklets - Copies of the March-April issue of the devotional guide *Today* are now available on the table at the south entrance. Feel free to take one home with you.

Presbyterians Sharing - We recently received a **thank-you letter** from Ian Ross-McDonald, the General Secretary of our national church's "Life and Mission Agency", thanking our congregation for contributing **\$3,651.69** to *Presbyterians Sharing* in 2019. Total contributions to *P.S.* from across the country last year came to \$8,389,514. The letter has been posted on the bulletin board in the Church Hall. New *P.S.* brochures for this year were distributed three weeks ago, and extra copies are set out on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Feel free to take one home with you.

Knox College - A copy of Knox College's quarterly newsmagazine, now renamed *Vocations*, is set out on the table at the south entrance, for anyone who would like to have a look at it. Knox College in Toronto is one of our church's three theological colleges.

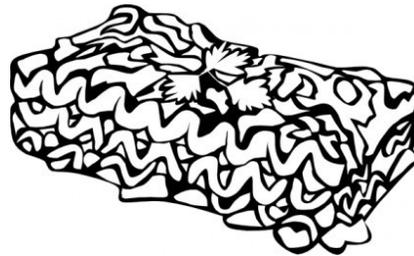
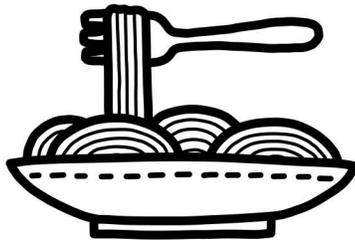
Refugee Families Update - The next fund raiser for the Bakr families will be a Kurdish Dinner and Dance on Saturday, April 4, from 5-9 in the Trinity United Church gym. Tickets can be purchased in the church offices of both Trinity United Church and St. Mary's Anglican Church, or by calling Paula 204-872-0533 or Tirzah 204-871-2087. Donations are welcome as well.

Prayer Calendars - Copies of the Prayer Calendar for March are ready to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. Don't forget your copy!

Greeting cards fundraiser - Session has approved a fund raiser of selling boxes of greeting cards. For this fund raiser to be a success it is very important for members of the congregation to participate in selling these cards. You can get a flyer and order sheet from Ria Zwiép after the service today. Thanks in advance for your participation.

Pasta Dinner

Sunday, April 5th, 2020 5:00- 6:30 p.m.



First Presbyterian Church, 17 Royal Road South (behind City Hall)

Adults \$15.00 12 & under \$8.00, 6 & under - Free

Everyone Welcome!

Spring Dinner - Sunday, May 3rd, 2020: Turkey and ham dinner, Adults \$15.00, 12 and under \$8.00, 6 and under free. Everyone welcome: put it on your calendar!

Mission Moment

Community outreach

West Toronto's St. Andrew's Islington Presbyterian Church has begun a new missional experiment called *Intersection* that seeks to reach out to people living in their community. This ministry invites people who have never been to church and may not feel comfortable stepping inside a church building to experience worship in a way that is more comfortable for them. The church is introducing neighbours to Christ by hosting events in everyday places such as retail spaces and condo party rooms. They hope to bless their neighbours by offering ESL meet ups, a senior's drop-in café, divorce care groups, and parenting support programs.

Presbyterians Sharing reaches out in new ways